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Main amendments to the Futsal Laws of the Game for the 2020/21 edition

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	Futsal Laws of the Game 2020/21
Modifications to the Futsal Laws of the Game	'For youth, veterans', disability and grassroots futsal: • the size of the pitch; • the size, weight and material of the ball; • the width between the goalposts and height of the crossbar from the ground; • the duration of the two (equal) halves of the game (and two equal halves of extra time); • limitations on the throwing of the ball by the goalkeeper. In addition, to allow national FAs further flexibility to benefit and develop their domestic futsal, FIFA has approved the following changes relating to "categories" of futsal: • Women's futsal is no longer a separate category and now has the same status as men's futsal. • The age limits for youth and veterans have been removed – national FAs, confederations and FIFA have the flexibility to decide the age restrictions for these categories. • Each national FA will determine which competitions at the lowest levels of futsal are designated as "grassroots" futsal.' Goal clearance – limitations on the throwing of the ball by the goalkeeper 'FIFA has approved certain limitations on the throwing of the ball by goalkeepers for youth, veterans', disability and grassroots futsal, subject to the approval of the national FA or confederation organising the competition or of FIFA – whichever is appropriate. References to the limitations are found in: Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct *"An indirect free kick is also awarded if a goalkeeper commits any of the following offences:* *[…]* • *where this is outlawed by domestic rules for youth, veterans', disability and/or grassroots futsal, throws the ball directly over the halfway line (the free kick is to be taken from the place where the ball crossed the halfway line)."* LAW 16 – The Goal Clearance *"Where this is outlawed by domestic rules for youth, veterans', disability and/or grassroots futsal, if the goalkeeper throws the ball directly over the halfway line, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the ball crossed the halfway line."* The philosophy behind this limitation is to promote creative futsal and encourage technical development. National FAs are asked to inform FIFA of their use of all of the above-mentioned modifications, and at which levels, as this information, and especially the reason(s) why the modifications are

	being used, may identify development ideas/strategies that FIFA can share to assist the development of futsal by other national FAs.'
LAW 3 – The Players	'A maximum of five substitutes per team are allowed to warm up at the same time.'
LAW 4 – The Players' Equipment	Other equipment 'Non-dangerous protective equipment – for example, headgear, facemasks and knee and arm protectors made of soft, lightweight padded material – is permitted, as are goalkeepers' caps and sports spectacles.' Bibs: 'A bib must be worn over the shirt to identify the substitutes and players being replaced must put one on to complete the substitution procedure. The bib should be a different colour to both teams' shirts and the opposing team's bibs.' Knee and arm protectors: 'Where knee and arm protectors are worn, they must be the same colour as the main colour of the shirt sleeve (arm protectors) or the shorts/trousers (knee protectors), and cannot protrude excessively.' Approved in football and extended to futsal • Inclusion of EPTS • Inclusion of provisions regarding slogans, statements, images and advertising
LAW 5 – The Referees	Powers and duties 'take action against team officials who fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and warn them, caution them or send them off from the pitch and its immediate surrounds, including the technical area. If the offender cannot be identified, the senior coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction. A medical team official who commits a sending-off offence may remain on the benches.' Referees' equipment – compulsory equipment 'Referees must have the following equipment: • at least one whistle • red and yellow cards • a notebook (or another means of keeping a record of the match)' Other equipment 'Referees may be permitted to use: • equipment for communicating with other match officials – headsets, etc.; • EPTS or other fitness monitoring equipment. Referees are prohibited from wearing any other electronic equipment, including cameras.'
LAW 6 – The Other Match Officials	'Reserve assistant referee (RAR) In tournaments or competitions where a reserve assistant referee is appointed, his/her role and duties must be in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the Futsal Laws of the Game. The reserve assistant referee: • is appointed under the competition rules and replaces the third referee if any of the referees are unable to continue officiating the match;

	• assists the referees at all times, including with any administrative duties before, during and after the match, as required by the referees; • submits a report after the match to the appropriate authorities on any misconduct or any other incident that occurred out of the view of the referees, and also advises the referees of any report being made; • records all incidents occurring before, during and after the match; • carries an alternative manual chronometer in case it is required due to an incident of any kind; • takes a position so as to be able to assist the referees by providing any relevant information regarding the match.'
LAW 7 – The Duration of the Match	'The timekeeper signals the end of each 20-minute period (and the extra-time periods) with an acoustic signal. • The period finishes when the acoustic signal sounds, even if the referees do not signal the end by blowing their whistle. • If a direct free kick beginning with the sixth accumulated foul or a penalty kick is awarded when a period is about to end, the period will be considered to have ended once the direct free kick or penalty kick has been completed. Either kick is considered completed when, after the ball is in play, one of the following occurs: o the ball stops moving or goes out of play; o the ball is played by any player (including the kicker) other than the defending goalkeeper; o the referees stop play for an offence by the kicker or the kicker's team. • A goal scored according to Laws 1 and 10 but after the end of the period, as indicated by the timekeeper with the acoustic signal, will only be allowed in the above situations. Periods of play will not be extended in any other case.'
LAW 8 – The Start and Restart of Play	Kick-off procedure 'All players, except the player taking the kick-off, must be in their own half of the pitch.' 'The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves.' 'A goal may be scored directly against the opponents from the kick-off; if the ball directly enters the kicker's goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opponents.'
LAW 10 – Determining the Outcome of a Match	Both teams take five kicks, and no longer three. 'If, at the end of the match or extra time, and before the kicks from the penalty mark start, one team has a greater number of players (including substitutes) than its opponents, it may choose to reduce its numbers to the same number as its opponents and the referees must be informed of the name and number of each player excluded, if any. Any excluded player is not eligible to take part in the kicks [except in certain circumstances].' 'If, during the kicks from the penalty mark, one team's number of players is reduced, the team with more players may choose to reduce its numbers to the same number and the referees

	must be informed of the name and number of each player excluded, if any. Any excluded player is not eligible to take further part in the kicks [except in certain circumstances].'
LAW 12 – Fouls and Misconduct	'Handling the ball Except for goalkeepers in their penalty area, it is an offence if a player: • deliberately touches the ball with his/her hand or arm, including moving his/her hand or arm towards the ball; • gains possession/control of the ball after it has touched his/her hand or arm and then: o scores in the opponents' goal; o creates a goalscoring opportunity. Except for goalkeepers in their penalty area, it is usually an offence if a player: • touches the ball with his/her hand or arm when: o the hand or arm has made his/her body unnaturally bigger; o the hand or arm is above or beyond his/her shoulder level (unless the player deliberately plays the ball with another part of the body and it then touches his/her hand or arm). The above offences apply even if the ball touches a player's hand or arm directly from the head or body (including the foot) of another player who is close. Except for the above offences, it is not usually an offence if the ball touches a player's hand or arm: o directly from the player's own head or body (including the foot); o directly from the head or body (including the foot) of another player who is close; o if the hand or arm is close to the body and does not make the body unnaturally bigger; o when a player falls and the hand or arm is between the body and the ground to support the body, but not extended laterally or vertically away from the body. The goalkeeper has the same restrictions on handling the ball as any other player outside the penalty area. If the goalkeeper handles the ball inside his/her penalty area when not permitted to do so, an indirect free kick is awarded but there is no disciplinary sanction.' Denying a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity (DOGSO) 'Where a player denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity by a handball offence, the player is sent off wherever the offence occurs. Where a player commits an offence against an opponent within his/her own penalty area which denies the opponent an obvious goalscoring opportunity and the referees award a penalty kick, the offender is cautioned if the offence was an attempt to play the ball; in all other circumstances (e.g. holding, pulling, pushing, no possibility to play the ball, etc.), the offending player must be sent off. A player, sent-off player, substitute or team official who enters the pitch without the required permission from one of the referees or in violation of the substitution procedure and interferes with play, committing an offence by denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity, is guilty of a sending-off offence. The following must be considered when determining whether it is a DOGSO situation:

	• the distance between the offence and the goal • the general direction of the play • the likelihood of keeping or gaining control of the ball • the location and number of defending outfield players, as well as the goalkeeper • whether or not the goal is "unguarded" If a goalkeeper is just in front of his/her own goal to guard it, it is considered that no DOGSO offence can be committed, even if the situation meets the other criteria for DOGSO. If a goalkeeper commits an offence which denies the opposing team an obvious goalscoring opportunity or denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity by handling the ball outside the penalty area when his/her goal is unguarded or only guarded by an outfield defending-team player behind the goalkeeper, the goalkeeper is considered guilty of a DOGSO offence. If the number of attacking-team players is greater than the number of defending-team players (except the goalkeeper) guarding the goal, this is considered to be a DOGSO situation.' Restart of play after fouls and misconduct 'If the ball is out of play, play is restarted according to the previous decision.' When the ball is in play: 'If an offence is committed off the pitch by a player against a player, substitute or team official of his/her own team, play is restarted with an indirect free kick on the boundary line closest to where the offence occurred. If a player makes contact with the ball with an object (a boot, shinguard, etc.) held in the hand, play is restarted with a direct free kick (or penalty kick).'
LAW 13 – Free Kicks	'An opponent who obstructs the kicker from moving towards the ball when a DFKSAF is going to be taken must be cautioned, even if the offender was respecting the 5m minimum distance.'
LAW 14 – The Penalty Kick	'When the ball is kicked, the defending goalkeeper must have at least part of one foot touching, or in line with, the goal line. The ball is in play when it is kicked forwards and clearly moves.' 'An opponent who obstructs the kicker from moving towards the ball when a penalty kick is going to be taken must be cautioned, even if the offender was respecting the 5m minimum distance.'
LAW 15 – The Kick-in	'A kick-in is awarded to the opponents of the player who last touched the ball when the whole of the ball passes over the touchline on the floor or in the air, or when the ball hits the ceiling while in play. A goal cannot be scored directly from a kick-in: • If the ball enters the opponents' goal, a goal clearance is awarded. • If the ball enters the kicker's goal, a corner kick is awarded.' 'Procedure At the moment of delivering the ball:

	• the ball must be stationary on the touchline at the point where it left the pitch or the nearest point to where it touched the ceiling; • all opponents must stand at least 5m from the point on the touchline where the kick-in is to be taken. The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves. The ball must be put into play within four seconds of the team being ready to put the ball into play or the referee signalling that the team is ready to put it into play. If the kick-in is taken and then, after it has been in play, the ball goes off the pitch over the same touchline where it was taken without touching any other player, it is retaken by the opposing team from the same location where the original kick-in was taken. If a player, while correctly taking a kick-in, deliberately kicks the ball at an opponent in order to play the ball again but not in a careless or reckless manner or using excessive force, the referees allow play to continue. The kicker must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player.'
LAW 16 – The Goal Clearance	'Procedure • The ball is thrown or released from any point within the penalty area by the goalkeeper of the defending team. • The ball is in play when it is thrown or released and clearly moves. • The ball must be put into play within four seconds of the team being ready to put the ball into play or the referee signalling that the team is ready to put it into play. • Opponents must be outside the penalty area until the ball is in play.'